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WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 9, 1953

I breakfasted at Bad Godesberg with Jim and Mrs. Conant and then we went to his office and had a conference with Red Dowling and Mike Harris.

At 11:15 I called on Walter Hallstein and spent an hour and a half with him. I gave him a list of points which should be cleared up before we can hope to have the French bring the matter of EDC ratification before their Parliament. Also, I expressed my views on how the conference on the European Political Community at Rome might be handled. The most important thing is not to make any compromises that would diminish the supranational powers to be conferred upon the Executive Authority.

Hallstein said [redacted] great pressure was being brought upon the Chancellor to resign as Foreign Minister and appoint Von Brentano in his stead. A decision would probably be made upon it today. The German newspapers carried accounts of this this morning. I had previously spoken about it with Jim Conant and we agreed to take it up with the Chancellor before lunch. We did so, saying [redacted] we believed such a change would have most unhappy consequences at this time since it was important that the Chancellor, as Prime Minister, discuss outstanding issues with the French at the very highest level, which it would be impossible for a new Foreign Minister to do. The Chancellor replied [redacted] he had decided to retain this portfolio for an indefinite period.

The Chancellor had Jim, myself, Hallstein and Blankenhorn for lunch. He was in a merry mood and quoted bits of Latin and Greek prose and poetry, accusing Blankenhorn and Hallstein of being ignoramuses in the literary field. It is evident [redacted] he is very gratified by his tremendous success but he does not display any vanity, rather a consciousness and a sort of religious humility about his heavy responsibilities. We had a lengthy conversation about what might best be done to progress toward Western European integration. He said

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he would shortly see Bidault and take up with him a negotiation on the Saar matter. I fear ~~that~~ the Chancellor's desire to have new elections there for the Landtag will not be acceptable to the French. However, the great thing is to open negotiations as soon as practicable.

Our meeting was very satisfactory and encouraging. Adenauer does not believe the situation in Italy in regard to EDC ratification is as black as pictured by newspaper correspondents in Rome. We decided on various measures to be taken by all of us to try to advance our joint policies concerning EDC and EPC.

Adenauer eats and drinks heartily and seems in splendid physical condition. He certainly creates the impression on all around him that he is a truly great statesman.

This afternoon, wishing to leave Conant and his staff free for their own occupations, I drove over to Dusseldorf. It is a dreary city in appearance and partially enveloped in smoky Ruhr clouds. In view of the extensive ruins, the activity of the people in reconstructing houses and public edifices is remarkable. As seems to be the case everywhere in Western Germany, the stores are full of consumer goods, the people are hard-working, well-dressed, healthy-looking and bursting with vitality.

On the way back we drove around some of the parts of Cologne that I had not seen on my previous trip there. I returned to the Conants' in time for dinner, where we were joined by the Dowlings and the Steeres. After dinner the men further discussed various European problems.

I left on the 9:20 train for Paris.

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